

FACT SHEET AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION RELATED TO THE  
NEWARK COMMUNITY'S TRIP TO WASHINGTON

BACKGROUND

The United Community Corporation, an independent non-profit Community Action Agency, was created to develop and coordinate a comprehensive program to deal with urban problems in conjunction with established public and private agencies, and newly created community corporations. It receives the bulk of its funds from the Federal government under Title II of the Economic Opportunity Act.

In its first twenty months of operation the UCC has been instrumental in developing and initiating programs totaling \$7-million in Federal funds. Among the programs approved and in operation are the Newark Pre-School Council, the Blazer Work Training Program, the Newark Legal Services Project, and Career Oriented Preparation for Employment (COPE). Other programs include Operation Head Start, supervised by the Newark Board of Education, Upward Bound, and the Golden Age Plan, now being conducted by the Newark Senior Citizens Commission.

PENDING LEGISLATION

The House Labor and Education Committee has introduced amendments to the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 that would impair the progress of Community Action Agencies such as the United Community Corporation.

The National Association for Community Development, of which the UCC is a member, has criticized the House Bill, as follows:

- | It would weaken coordination of the Office of Economic Opportunity by placing OEO programs under jurisdiction of other Federal agencies.
- | It would severely limit local initiative and clearly detract from the stature, purpose and ability of Community Action Agencies to develop as a vital force in the community.
- | It would limit the possibility for innovation at a time when the program is being praised widely.

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The House Bill contains some of the following recommendations:

A requirement of at least 20% of Community Action funds be made available to independent agencies outside the jurisdiction of local Community Action Agencies. It would establish a revised formula for Federal-local funding of antipoverty programs, raising the local contribution from 10 to 20%.

Finally the total proposed appropriation for antipoverty efforts during the year is \$1.75-billion. This amount is only slightly higher than last year's appropriation, and with the creation of twice as many Community Action Agencies across the country, grants for each community will therefore be reduced proportionately.

Furthermore, suggested reallocation of funds under Title II would provide additional funds for programs pre-packaged at the Federal level and reduce the amount of money available for development and conduct of locally initiated activities.